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THE

Original of APPAREL:

OR, THE

Ornaments of DRESS.

Presented to

Mr. *VERNUM*,

TAYLOR.

GEN. iii. 7.

And the Eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked: And they sewed Fig-Leaves together, and made themselves Aprons.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR. 1732.

THE

Original of APPAREL:

OR, THE

Origin and Use of DRESS.

To

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THE

Original of APPAREL, &c.

HAD beauteous *Eve*, fair Mother of Mankind
From prying into Secrets turn'd her Mind;
Had not the Tree of Knowledge charm'd her Eyes
And made her wiſh to be more great and wiſe;
Had ſhe the ſubtle *Serpent*'s Wiles withſtood,
Nor dar'd to taſte of the forbidden Food;
From Head to Foot, the naked human Frame
Had rais'd no Bluſhes, and had caus'd no Shame.
When *Adam* with his *Eve* had ſhar'd in Guilt,
Their Innocence deſtroy'd, new Fears they felt.
Their ſecret Parts expos'd they cou'd not bear;
To veil them from their Eyes, they did prepare
Aprons of Leaves; firſt Scrap of Garments made,
To cover Nakedneſs with Shame ſurvey'd.

Unhappy Cauſe! Thus from the Fall of Man
Garments invented were, and Dreſs began.

When our firſt Parents, for their Crimes, were driv'n
From charming *Eden*, their terreſtrial Heav'n,
In ſolitary Ways unknown to tread,
With Sweat and Toil to earn their daily Bread;
They ſaw the Face of Nature chang'd; the Skies,
Where bright gay Proſpects us'd to pleaſe their Eyes,
With ſtormy Clouds o'erſpread, gloomy appear'd;
For *Zephyr* Gales they bluſt'ring *Boreas* heard;
His piercing Blaſts the new-form'd Winter brought:
Then *Eve* and *Adam* Cloths and Shelter ſought.
For preſent Uſe, what ſooneſt cou'd be had,
With Skins of ſome large Beaſts themſelves they clad.
But as their num'rous Progeny increas'd,
Many, of brighter Genius than the reſt,
Imploy'd their daily Thoughts and Pains to find
New, better Ways, to cloth and deck Mankind.
Succeſsful Tryals did their Hopes increaſe:
They found the Silk-Worm, Flax, and ſnowy Fleece,

Manag'd

Manag'd with Skill, wou'd various Wares produce,
Of Linnens, Silks, or Cloths of gen'ral Uſe.
Thoſe firſt Inventors the Foundations laid
For future Arts, and pav'd the Way for Trade.
Succeeding Ages, by their Schemes improv'd,
Refin'd their Projects, their Miſtakes remov'd.
Then Spinſters, Weavers, Dyers, firſt diſplay'd
The Products of their Skill, for Clothing made.
But fineſt Silks, or Cloths, without more Art,
No ſlender Shapes cou'd grace, or any Part.
The ſweeteſt Forms, with native Charms endow'd,
Wou'd loſe their Beauties cover'd with a Shroud.
Therefore, there wanted ſome compleating Skill,
To finiſh what they had perform'd ſo well.
Then thoſe ingenious Men, we TAYLORS name,
Deſerve high Praiſe, who firſt did Garments frame.
They of the Shape and Limbs Survey did make,
And of Proportion did true Meaſure take.
By that juſt Plan the Shears Diviſions made,
To anſwer ev'ry Part they had ſurvey'd.

The Silk, or Cloth, thus canton'd into Parts,
Were manag'd by the skilful Sempſter's Arts.
The parted Silk, or Cloth, again was join'd,
And various Garments form'd to deck Mankind.

THE firſt Diſtinction by Apparel made,
In clothing of the Sexes was diſplay'd.
The female Fair, and ſtronger hardy Men,
Were always in a diff'rent Habit ſeen.
All Nations of the World the ſame allow,
And Men, and Women, by their Dreſs we know;
Except, for Pleaſure, in a Maſquerade,
Each Sex each other's Privilege invade.

ALL Stations and Degrees by Dreſs are known;
The royal Robes, the bright imperial Crown,
Are the rich Habits ſov'reign Princes wear,
That to the World their Rank and Pow'r declare.
Prelates, and Peers, great Guardians of the Throne,
Their various Titles by their Robes are known.
In grand Proceſſions, and the Pomp of State,
Their ſplendid Ornaments proclaim them great;

And

And thoſe ingenious Artiſts' Skill expreſs,
Whoſe Labours form'd that ſhining Scene of Dreſs.
TAYLORS of Genius for high Things are born;
The Sun and Stars of Honour they adorn;
And all the ſparkling Glories of the Court
Their Ingenuity and Pains ſupport:
Like gaudy Flow'rs they ſoon wou'd droop and fade
Without their uſeful Toils, and needful Aid.

THEIR Arts diſtinguiſh Officers of State;
What Honours they poſſeſs, and Truſts of Weight.
Their Gowns of various Forms and Colours prove
Their Share of Pow'r, and in what Sphere they mov
Britain's High Chancellor, plac'd next the Crown,
Wears the moſt ſplendid and ſuperior Gown.
The Fathers of the Laws, who awful ſit,
And grace *Aſtrea*'s venerable Seat,
In dazzl'ing Scarlet ſhine, and there receive
The Jury's Verdict, and juſt Sentence give.
And their learn'd Brethren next them in Degree,
Who wear the Coif adorn'd with Purple, ſee

The lower Pleaders at the wrangling Bar,
Fam'd for their Eloquence, in Black appear.
Auguſta's Courtiers rich and eminent,
Who King, Lords, Commons, nobly repreſent,
In ſcarlet, black, or purple Gowns appear;
What ſuit their Days, and Feſtivals, they wear:
Their Principal, who fills the Chair of State,
Shines in his Year, both Lord and Magiſtrate:
His Councellors, and Brethren of the Gown,
Are by their ornamental Dreſſes known.
The Chiefs in Arms, who in their Stations ſtand
Guardians of Liberty by Sea and Land,
In ſcarlet Habits coſtly deck'd appear,
Suiting their Offices, and martial Sphere.
ALL theſe Degrees of Dreſs, with Pleaſure ſeen,
Are curious Labours of ingenious Men.
The Men of Figure, with large Fortunes bleſt,
Without them cannot be compleatly dreſt.
Now, by the TAYLORS uſeful Arts, they may
Shine in all Shapes, bright, courtly, grave or gay.

The changing Faſhions ev'ry Quarter wear,
And in the Nicety of Mode appear.

THE bright *Beau Monde*, who ſhine in ev'ry Plac
With Garments deck'd, with gold or ſilver Lace,
Or rich Embroidery, with Joy repair
Where they may view the young and wealthy Fair
Whom they admire, to whom they pay Addreſs,
And wiſh no more than to have free Acceſs.
If they are Maſters of alluring Arts,
With ſoft enticing Words they ſteal their Hearts.
They to the Plays, the Race, or Wells, reſort,
And often mix with the Grandees at Court.

IN ancient Times, the Wealthy and the Great
Were by Apparel known, their Rank, and State.
The Rich and Poor, the Servant and the Free,
In Dreſs appear'd that ſuited each Degree.
Now, in our modern, emulating Days,
Many, by modiſh Dreſs, their Fortunes raiſe.
When thus adorn'd, and among Strangers, they
Appear of Rank, and Marks of Wealth diſplay;

By courtly Habits they Admittance find
Among the Wiſe and Wealthy of Mankind;
If deck'd with Parts and Senſe that ſuit their Dreſs,
Skilful in Men, they flouriſh with Succeſs;
Altho' their Ornaments ſuperior be
To ſhallow Wealth, low Station, or Degree.
Such Men of prudent Conduct merit Praiſe,
That by fair Stratagems their Fortunes raiſe.

SINCE ornamental Dreſs, and Faſhions are
Of Service to Mankind, in ev'ry Sphere;
Since to Appearances reſpect we pay,
And ſhining Garbs to Riſing pave the Way;
Since all Mankind are much improv'd by Dreſs,
And manage their Affairs with more Succeſs;
Since none, without the TAYLORS uſeful Arts,
Can grace their human Forms, and mortal Parts;
TAYLORS of Merit, whoſe bright Works reveal
A Genius ſublime, and Maſter's Skill,
Deſerve Eſteem, Wealth, Honour, and fair Fame;
And none can juſtly their Profeſſion blame.

They

They ſerve Mankind by Meaſures and juſt Rules,
And thoſe who ridicule their Trade are Fools.
Their Arts more uſeful are to all Mankind,
Than other clothing Arts together join'd;
Since all they can prepare to purchaſe Gain,
Till finiſh'd by the TAYLORS Skill, are vain.
Their Meaſures, Shears, and Needles, muſt compleat
Their various Works, to deck the Rich and Great.

WOU'D thoſe who bare Sufficiency poſſeſs,
Conſider the Advantages of Dreſs,
So much they wou'd not in ſtrong Liquors ſpend,
That in their Healths Deſtruction often end;
Nor give away profuſely their ſmall Gains,
To make the Man a Beaſt, and turn their Brains;
Nor waſte ſo many Pence in Drams and Beer,
That wanting Coin for Cloths they Rags muſt wear.

AND thoſe ingenious ARTISTS we muſt praiſe,
Who grace the Fair, and mend their Shapes with Stays.
If of a tap'ring Waſte by Nature made,
More ſlender they appear by their nice Aid;

These skilful Men, Nature's Defects repair,
By well-made Stays they charming make the Fair.

Those female Artists MANTUA-MAKERS nam'd,
Who for their Ingenuity are fam'd;
With courtly Dresses deck the lovely Fair,
And make their graceful Forms more bright appear.

Those, whom kind Nature form'd to raise Delight,
Whose Features, Shape, and Mien, allure the Sight;
In the Settee, the Night-Gown, or full Dress,
Their Beauties shine, and triumph with Success.

No Mode, or Habit, can eclipse their Charms;
The Fair will conquer with their potent Arms.
Their Ornaments improve each native Grace,
And fond Admirers make in ev'ry Place.

If Wit, and Sense, with Nature's Arts are join'd,
A prudent Conduct, or a virtuous Mind;
They shine terrestrial Goddesses, and claim
Love, Honour, high Applause, and endless Fame.

They form the brightest Scene where they resort,
And grace the Wells, Balls, Plays, and *Britain*'s Court.

The

The ſhining Beaux about their Perſons wait,
To pay their Homage, and augment their State.
Where Ladies go, with Pleaſure they repair;
Where they are abſent, but few Men appear.
The female Race, the Fair, the Black, and Brown,
By diff'rent Features, and Complections known;
If they from Love, or Fortune, hope Succeſs,
Muſt, to their Pow'r, appear in modiſh Dreſs.

EXAMINE ev'ry other Art, and Trade,
By which ſo many uſeful Things are made;
And round the Globe of Earth you none can find
Of greater Uſe, more needful to Mankind.
Thoſe three chief TRADES that in Apparel join,
By whoſe adorning Arts both Sexes ſhine;
TAYLORS and MANTUA-MAKERS merit Praiſe,
And THOSE who ſhapely make the Fair with Stays.
Since ev'ry Dreſs, and Habit, theſe compleat,
Long may they flouriſh by the Rich and Great,
And grace their Stations, till Time's lateſt Date!

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